

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION
FOR FORESTERS
Board Meeting: November 17, 2010**

The Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters held a meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, at the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia, for the purpose of conducting Board business.

The following Board members were present:

John Britt, Board Chairperson
James Frederick Allen
Leonard L. Kinsley
John W. Mixon
Anna Thomaston (via conference call)

Others present:

Tanja Battle, Executive Director
JoAnne Sims, Board Support Specialist
Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General (via conference call)
Investigator Chuck Miller

Chairperson Britt established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Britt called for any changes/revisions to the August 11, 2010 minutes.

A motion was made by John Mixon, seconded by Leonard Kinsley, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as amended.

Executive Director's Report

Tanja Battle advised there was nothing to report at this time.

Applicants Licensed Since Last Review

The Board reviewed the following list of Registered Foresters licensed since the last Board meeting. A motion was made by Fred Allen, seconded by John Mixon, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the licensure of one individual as presented:

License #	Name	Issue Date	License Method
RF002880	Bryant, David Brent	8/11/2010	Examination

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Written Requests/Correspondence

The Board considered correspondence from Mr. Homer C. Rawls, Jr., requesting that the Board establish two separate designations of Forester. Discussion ensued. A legislative change would be required to authorize the Board to have separate designations as suggested. Mr. Britt agreed to communicate with Mr. Rawls regarding his suggestion.

Fred Allen agreed to review the Board's laws and rules and will raise possible revisions for discussion at the next meeting. All Board members were invited to submit their thoughts to Mr. Allen.

Vote to Post Proposed Rule Revisions

A motion was made by Fred Allen, seconded by John Mixon, and the Board voted unanimously to post the proposed revised rule:

220-2-.02 Education.

(1) A baccalaureate degree from a school, college, or department of forestry approved by the board, as provided in O.C.G. A. 12-6-49(a)(1), means the first professional degree in forestry at the bachelor's level or highest in a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

(2) The following applies to O.C.G. A. 12-6-249(a)(2):

(a) A degree from a school of forestry not approved by the board, as provided in O.C.G.A. 12-6-49(a)(2), means a baccalaureate degree from an educational institution which has applied to the Society of American foresters for accreditation and has certified that its forestry curriculum meets the minimum standards for objectives, curriculum, faculty, students, administration, parent-institution support, and physical resources and facilities required for accreditation.

(b) A curriculum approved by the board, as provided in O.C.G.A. 12-6-49(a)(2), means a two-year associate degree in forest technology or the equivalent which is recognized by the Society of American Foresters as meeting or exceeding its minimum standards relating to objectives, curriculum, faculty, students, administration, parent-institution support, and physical resources and facilities.

(3) All applicants are required to furnish official copies of their college transcripts.

220-2-.08 Examination for Registration.

~~(1) The passing level on the examination for registration as a forester shall be established by the Board.~~

(1) Examinations shall be those examinations prepared by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and an examination prepared by or on behalf of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters covering information related to the practice of forestry in the State of Georgia.

~~(2) Applications for the examination must be received in the Board office at least 40 days prior to the date of the examination.~~

~~(3) The Board will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified applicant with a~~

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~~disability in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The request for an accommodation by an individual with a disability must be made in writing and received in the Board office by the application deadline along with the appropriate documentation, as indicated in the Request for Disability Accommodation Guidelines.~~

(2) Society of American Foresters (SAF) shall provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified applicant with a disability in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act. Upon approval by the Georgia Board to take the examination, applicants wishing to be considered for special testing accommodations must send a written request indicating their needs directly to SAF at:

Society of American Foresters
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-2198

220-3-.05 Reinstatement. Amended.

(1) Registrations not renewed in accordance with Rules 220-3-.03 and 220-3-.04 above shall not be subject to renewal, provided, however, that the holder thereof may apply for reinstatement.

(2) An application for reinstatement shall be accompanied by:

(a) A reinstatement fee; and,

(b) Evidence, satisfactory to the Board, of the completion of continuing education as specified below:

1. Six hours as defined in Rule 220-4-.04 for each year or fraction thereof since the last renewal of the applicant's license, up to a maximum of 36 hours.

~~2. One half of the hours must be in Categories 1 or 2. No more than one half may be in Categories 2, 3, or 4. No more than one fourth may be in Categories 5 or 6. One twelfth must be in professional ethics. Fractional requirements and limitations shall be rounded up to the nearest whole hour. The hours required by this paragraph may be counted towards fulfilling the continuing education requirements of the next biennial period if they have been earned in accordance with Rule 220-4-.05.~~

No more than one-fourth of the credit hours claimed can be in Category 3. Three-fourths of the credit hours obtained must be earned through the participation in Live-Study programs. Fractional credit hours will be rounded down to the nearest half hour. The hours required by this paragraph may be counted towards fulfilling the continuing education requirements of the next biennial period if they have been earned in accordance with Rule 220-4-.05.

3. In order to be satisfactory, at least twelve of the hours required for reinstatement must have been completed during the two year period immediately preceding the date of application for reinstatement.

A motion was made by John Mixon, seconded by Fred Allen, and the Board voted unanimously that the formulation and adoption of the three proposed rule revisions do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives O.C.G.A. §§ 12-6-47, 12-6-50, 12-6-52, 12-6-56, 12-6-57, 43-1-7, 43-1-19 and 43-1-25.

In the same motion, the Board voted unanimously that it is not legal or feasible to meet the

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objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 12-6-47, 12-6-50, 12-6-52, 12-6-56, 12-6-57, 43-1-7, 43-1-19 and 43-1-25 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. §50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of this rule will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of forestry.

Proposed 2011 Forester Examination Dates

A motion was made by Fred Allen, seconded by Leonard Kinsley, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the following Forester examination dates for 2011:

- March 14 – 25, 2011
- September 12 – 23, 2011

Proposed 2011 Board Meeting Dates

A motion was made by Leonard Kinsley, seconded by Fred Allen, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the following 2011 Board meeting dates:

- Wednesday, February 9, 2011
- Wednesday May 11, 2011
- Wednesday August 10, 2011
- Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Requirement for Continuing Education after a Certain Age

Mr. Mixon updated the Board on discussions he has held. Some states do not require continuing education once a licensee reaches the age of 65. A discussion ensued, and points raised included the Board's authority to waive continuing education in circumstances of hardship or illness, and various approaches that may be taken to define the requirement under Title 12. This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Annual Election of Officers

A motion was made by John Mixon, seconded by John Britt, and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Fred Allen as the Chairperson for 2011.

A motion was made by John Britt, seconded by Fred Allen, and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Leonard Kinsley as the Vice Chair for 2011.

Written Requests/Correspondence

The Board considered correspondence from the Georgia Division of the SAF requesting that they have the duty to recommend new Board of Registration for Foresters appointees to the Governor. The Board agreed that John Britt will respond, stating that any individual or organization is entitled to submit nominations to the Governor.

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Executive Session

A motion was made by Fred Allen, seconded by John Mixon, and the Board members present: John Britt, Leonard Kinsley and Anna Thomaston voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h) to receive the Attorney General's report, discuss investigative matters and application discussion.

Open Session was declared by Chairperson Britt.

Vote on Discussions from Executive Session

A motion was made by John Mixon, seconded by Fred Allen, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations made in Executive Session.

The recommendations made in Executive Session are as follows:

The Board voted for the Attorney General to draft a letter for the Board's signature, outlining the Board's concerns regarding practices to:

T. C.

The Board voted for the following individual to be referred to the Real Estate Appraiser Board, along with a copy of the complaint:

W. M. L.

The Board heard a report on the following case:

FOR100001: The Board voted unanimously to close the case with a letter of concern.

The Board voted to accept the Cognizant's recommendation to issue a Cease and Desist order for unlicensed practice to:

J. V.

The Board voted to request changes to a website that had been updated following issuance of a consent order:

A. K.

Applications

The following applicants were approved to take the Examination:

Applicant # 1249174

Applicant # 1249170

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Applicant # 1254295

Applicant # 1255682

Applicant # 1261000

The following applicants were approved for reinstatement of licensure:

Applicant # 291898

Applicant # 290858

Applicant # 290959

Applicant # 290315

Applicant # 290041

Applicant # 290548

Applicant # 291302

The following applicant was denied reinstatement:

Applicant # 1260912

Written Requests

Applicant # 1023445: Discussion was deferred to the next meeting when Mr. Greene would be in attendance.

Applicant # 1258387: The Board considered a request for waiver of fee and voted to deny the request.

Open session was declared.

Other Business

With no other business for the Board to discuss, a motion was made by John Britt, seconded by Fred Allen, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

JoAnne Sims, Board Support Specialist

Minutes Edited/Reviewed by:

Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director